

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 OMB-01
DHA-02 EB-08 /086 W
-----010310 075113 /66

R 281516Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1982
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN
USIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SY
SUBJECT: SYRIAN MEDIA SUMMARY FOR FEB 24-25

1. MURDER OF DAMASCUS UNIVERSITY RECTOR, DR. MUHAMMAD AL-FADIL
AND IRAQ'S SENTENCING AND EXECUTION OF NUMBER OF ALLEGED PARTI-
CIPANTS IN DISTURBANCES AT NAJAF AND KARBALA FEATURED IN MEDIA.
PROMINENT PICTURES OF ASAD EXTENDING CONDOLENCES TO AL-FADIL'S
WIDOW AND FRONT-PAGE ATTENTION GIVEN DENUNCIATION OF MURDER
BY VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS GAVE ADEQUATE TESTIMONY TO IMPORTANT
POSITION OF INFLUENCE AL-FADIL OCCUPIED WITHIN SYRIA'S RULING
ALWAITE MINORITY AND TO POLITICAL CHARACTER OF THE ASSASSINATION.
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IN FUNERAL ORATION CARRIED ON DAMASCUS RADIO BAATH REGIONAL
COMMANDER MEMVER, AHMAD DIYAB, ACCUSED IRAQ OF COMPLICITY IN CRIME.

2. IRAQ REPORTEDLY EXECUTED EIGHT PERSONS AND SENTENCED ANOTHER
FIFTEEN TO HARD LABOR FOLLOWING DISTURBANCES WHICH OCCURRED
EARLIER THIS MONTH AT NAJAF AND KARBALA. PRESS BANNERED:
"MURDERERS' REGIME IN BAGHDAD BEGINS LIQUIDATING LEADERS OF

POPULAR UPRISING."

3. GREEK FONMIN BITSIOS VISITED SYRIA FROM FEB 22-25. HE MET WITH PRES ASAD, PRIMIN KHULAYFAWI, AND FONMIN KHADDAM AMONG OTHERS (SEPTTEL FOLLOWS).

4. PRESS REPEATED PRES SARKIS ADVISED SECRETARY VANCE TO SEPARATE LEBANESE ISSUE FROM OVERALL ME PROBLEM, BECAUSE SARKIS FEARED THAT PERIOD FOR RESOLVING LATTER "MAY BE PROLONGED." ARTICLE CITED BEIRUT PORT AUTHORITIES CLAIM THAT AMOUNTS HANDLED AT PORT HAVE DOUBLED SINCE ADF TOOK OVER RESPONSIBILITY FOR PORT SECURITY AND CLOSED ILLEGAL PORTS ALONG LEBANESE COAST.

5. EDITORIALS CENTERED ON ISRAELI KNESSET'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE RESOLUTION THAT GAZA SHOULD BE ANNEXED. COLUMNISTS ASSERTED THIS PROVED ISRAEL STILL EXPANSIONIST AND INSINCERE ABOUT DESIRING PEACE. AL-BAATH STATED, "THE DECISION TO ANNEX GAZA STRIP HAS COME AS BLOW TO OPTIMISTS WHO ATTACHED WIDE HOPES TO SHIFT IN POLICY OF NEW AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION AND TO ITS ADOPTING SERIOUS ATTITUDE AIMED AT CURBING THE ZIONISTS' DEFIANCE."

6. ANOTHER AL-BAATH EDITORIAL CONTINUED CAMPAIGN FOR MORE LARGESSE FROM ARAB AID DONORS, ALBEIT IN SUBSTANTIALLY MORE MODERATE TONE THAN USED IN OPENING SLAVOS OF THIS MEDIA CAMPAIGN. EDITORIAL NOTED THAT IN OPENING AGRICULTURAL SYMPOSIUM LAST WEEK SYRIAN PRIMIN HAD CALLED UPON RICH ARAB STATES TO INVEST MORE OF THEIR SURPLUS RESOURCES IN PRODUCTIVE PROJECTS WITHIN THE ARAB WORLD. EDITORIAL RECALLED THREATS OF FOOD BOY-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COTTS MADE AGAINST ARAB OIL PRODUCERS DECLARING, "WE HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN THAT MAJOR STATE (READ US) HAS BRANDISHED AGAINST ARAB PEOPLE THE WEAPON OF HUNGER IN AN OPEN AND OFFICIAL WAY." EDITORIAL THEN EXHORTED ARABS TO IMPLEMENT PLANS FOR ECONOMIC INTERGRATION AS KEY ELEMENT OF ACHIEVING "MILITARY STEADFASTNESS." MURPHY

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
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Executive Order: N/A
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